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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

**IN RE: JUUL LABS, INC., MARKETING,
SALES PRACTICES, AND PRODUCTS
LIABILITY LITIGATION**

Case No. 19-md-02913-WHO

**JOINT CASE MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE STATEMENT AND
PROPOSED AGENDA**

This Document Relates to:

ALL ACTIONS

Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 16-10(d) and the Court’s June 19, 2020 Minute Order (ECF No. 681), counsel for Defendants Juul Labs, Inc. (“JLI”), Altria,¹ Director Defendants,² E-Liquid Defendants,³ Retailer Defendants,⁴ and Distributor Defendants⁵ (collectively “Defendants”), and Plaintiffs’ Co-Lead Counsel (“Plaintiffs”) (collectively referred to herein as the “Parties”)

¹ “Altria” refers to Altria Group, Inc., and the Altria-affiliated entities named in Plaintiffs’ Consolidated Class Action Complaint and Consolidated Master Complaint (collectively, “Complaints”), *see* ECF Nos. 387, 388.

² “Director Defendants” refers to Messrs. James Monsees, Adam Bowen, Nicholas Pritzker, Hoyoung Huh, and Riaz Valani.

³ “E-Liquid Defendants” refers to Mother Murphy’s Labs, Inc., Alternative Ingredients, Inc., Tobacco Technology, Inc., and Eliquitech, Inc.

⁴ “Retailer Defendants” refers to Chevron Corporation, Circle K Stores, Inc., Speedway LLC, 7-Eleven, Inc., Walmart, and Walgreen Co.

⁵ “Distributor Defendants” refers to McLane Company, Inc., Eby-Brown Company, LLC, and Core-Mark Holding Company, Inc.

1 respectfully provide this Joint Case Management Statement in advance of the Further Case
2 Management Conference scheduled for July 17, 2020.

3 **I. PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

4 The conference will proceed via Zoom and the parties will not appear in person. Anyone
5 who wishes to attend the conference must log in using the information provided by the Court on
6 the public docket.

7 **II. ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED BELOW AND PROPOSED AGENDA**

- 8 1. Status of Case Filings
9 2. Case Management Matters
10 3. 26(f) Report
11 4. Discovery Status
12 5. ADR Status

13 **III. STATUS OF CASE FILINGS**

14 To date, 776 cases are pending in this MDL, naming 83 defendants. A list of these
15 defendants is attached as **Exhibit A**. To date, 640 personal injury cases and 100 government
16 entity cases (including 69 school districts, 19 counties, 1 city, and 11 tribes) have been filed in
17 this MDL.

18 There are 185 complaints pending in JCCP 5052, which is assigned to Judge Ann I. Jones
19 of the Los Angeles Superior Court as the Coordination Trial Judge. There are 12 defendants
20 named in those cases.

21 The Parties are also aware of 13 cases filed by state attorneys general across the country,
22 specifically: California, Illinois, Hawaii, New York, North Carolina, Mississippi, Minnesota,
23 Washington D.C., Arizona, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Massachusetts, and Colorado. Plaintiffs'
24 Liaison Counsel are continuing their outreach to various State Attorneys General to discuss
25 cooperation with this MDL.

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1 **IV. CASE MANAGEMENT MATTERS**

2 **A. Supplement to Deposition Protocol Regarding Remote Depositions**

3 The Parties have conferred and anticipate submitting a joint request for entry of a
 4 supplemental deposition protocol regarding remote depositions by the July 17, 2020 CMC. If
 5 there are any remaining areas of dispute precluding joint submission at the CMC, the parties will
 6 seek guidance from Judge Corley to assist in finalization.

7 **B. Update on Bellwether Selection Procedure**

8 *Personal injury cases:* The Parties have conferred and agree on the following procedure
 9 and schedule for selecting the bellwether cases:

10 Position of Plaintiffs, JLI, and Altria: Plaintiffs, JLI, and Altria agree that any action filed
 11 in or transferred to this Court by October 15, 2020 will be included in the bellwether selection
 12 pool. The initial bellwether discovery pool will be selected (pursuant to procedures to be
 13 determined by agreement and/or by order of the court) from the bellwether selection pool on or
 14 before December 15, 2020. Plaintiffs will make good faith efforts to timely submit completed
 15 PFSs and authorizations for those Plaintiffs in the bellwether selection pool, and JLI and Altria
 16 reserve all rights to move to dismiss complaints with incomplete PFSs and/or authorizations
 17 pursuant to the procedures set forth in Case Management Order No. 8.

18 Position of Other Defendants: The Newly Named Defendants (Retailer Defendants,
 19 Distributor Defendants, E-Liquid Defendants, and Director Defendants) state that their ability to
 20 meaningfully participate in this process hinges on Plaintiffs' timely and complete submission of
 21 Supplemental Plaintiff Fact Sheets, which the Parties are still in the process of submitting to
 22 Judge Corley (Plaintiffs do concede some new questions are appropriate for the Newly Named
 23 Defendants, who did not have an opportunity to participate in the negotiation of the original
 24 Plaintiff Fact Sheet). To date, less than half of the personal injury plaintiffs have submitted a
 25 Plaintiff Fact Sheet and none have completed Supplemental Fact Sheets because the supplement
 26 has not yet been entered. Given the pace of new filings, the ratio of completed Fact Sheets to
 27 total filings may not change materially by October 15. Without a substantial majority of
 28 Plaintiffs submitting timely and complete Plaintiff Fact Sheets and Supplemental Plaintiff Fact

1 Sheets, Newly Named Defendants—who will be working to evaluate bellwether cases after being
 2 involved in the case for approximately nine months—will be prejudiced by incomplete
 3 information about the pool of potential bellwethers. Accordingly, the Newly Named Defendants
 4 agree to the October 15/December 15 schedule laid out above, but should a majority of Plaintiffs
 5 fail to provide timely and complete Supplemental PFSs well prior to the December 15 selection
 6 date, Newly Named Defendants reserve their rights to re-visit the bellwether schedule with the
 7 Parties and the Court.

8 Plaintiffs' Position in Response to the Other Defendants' Position: Plaintiffs do not agree
 9 to most of the proposed additions to the PFS, as they are either repetitive of questions already on
 10 the fact sheet, or go beyond the scope allowed following the conference before Judge Corley.
 11 Plaintiffs have agreed to a narrowly tailored supplemental PFS (and corresponding DFS) to gather
 12 information regarding the plaintiff's participation in a retailer's loyalty program, which would not
 13 impose undue burden or delay the bellwether selection process. Plaintiffs fail to understand how
 14 any defendants would be prejudiced by the schedule agreed to by JLI and Altria, which will allow
 15 for many hundred cases to be considered for a bellwether discovery pool.

16 The Parties have discussed the number of proposed cases for the bellwether discovery
 17 pool and the method for selecting those cases and will be prepared to put forth any agreements or
 18 competing proposals by the August Case Management Conference. With respect to the selection
 19 of bellwether cases for trial, Plaintiffs propose that, at the appropriate time, both sides present
 20 their positions, under seal or *ex parte* as needed to protect confidential information, to the Court
 21 to determine the bellwether case selections. Defendants do not believe that this is a proper
 22 subject for *ex parte* or under seal filings, and will work in good faith with Plaintiffs on the
 23 appropriate format for submitting agreed upon or disputed proposed procedures for the selection
 24 and sequencing of trial bellwethers at a future date.

25 Government entity cases: Plaintiffs, JLI, Altria, and the Director Defendants are
 26 continuing to meet and confer regarding a procedure and schedule for selecting the bellwether
 27 cases. At the August Case Management Conference, these Parties shall submit joint or competing
 28 selection protocols.

1 *Class action cases:* As set out in the May 13, 2020 Case Management Statement (ECF
 2 No. 551 at 7-8), the Parties to the class action have agreed that any California subclass and federal
 3 claims remaining after the Court rules on motions to dismiss will be among the initial summary
 4 judgment, class certification, and trial bellwether candidates. The Parties to the class action
 5 reserved their rights to propose additional state-subclass claims for inclusion in the bellwether
 6 pool, but agreed that the later inclusion of any such additional subclass claims will not impact or
 7 delay the schedule for adjudicating and resolving (through summary judgment, class certification,
 8 and/or trial) the claims asserted by the proposed California or federal subclasses.

9 **C. Amendment to Protective Order and ESI Protocol**

10 The Parties are in the process of conferring regarding an amended protective order and an
 11 amended ESI protocol and will submit an agreed upon or competing proposals before the August
 12 Case Management Conference.

13 **D. Appointment of a Defense Liaison**

14 Plaintiffs renew their request for the Court to appoint a defense liaison to streamline
 15 scheduling and communication among the parties. Defendants will be prepared to address the
 16 issue at the Case Management Conference, and note that at least some Defendants oppose
 17 Plaintiffs' request for appointment of an overall defense liaison.

18 **E. Authentication**

19 Plaintiffs have provided an updated authenticity stipulation to address the language
 20 proposed by JLI and Altria in the last CMC Statement, which Defendants are considering. If the
 21 Parties cannot finalize an agreement before the next Case Management Conference, they will
 22 seek guidance from Judge Corley on this issue.

23 **F. Proposed Page Limits for Oppositions to Certain Pending Motions to
 24 Dismiss**

25 Plaintiffs and JLI, Altria, and the Director Defendants have conferred regarding the limits
 26 and format of Plaintiffs' oppositions to the pending motions to dismiss the Government Entity
 27 and California Subclass claims. The parties agree, subject to the Court's approval, to the
 28 following.

1 The Government Entities will file (1) an omnibus response to JLI and Altria's motion to
 2 dismiss not to exceed 60 pages and (2) an omnibus response to the individual defendants' motions
 3 to dismiss not to exceed 60 pages.

4 As to the motions to dismiss filed by the Director Defendants on June 29, 2020 (ECF Nos.
 5 748, 751, 752), the California Subclass Plaintiffs will file a single omnibus response not to exceed
 6 40 pages.

7 **G. Deadline for Amending Non-operative Government Entity Complaints**

8 Plaintiffs and Defendants have conferred regarding an appropriate deadline for amending
 9 the non-operative Government Entity complaints. In light of the pending motions to dismiss, the
 10 Parties agree that the amendment deadline should occur after resolution of those motions. The
 11 Parties propose an amendment deadline of 60 days after the Court issues its rulings on the
 12 pending motions.

13 **H. Tribal Cases**

14 On July 7, 2020, counsel representing tribal plaintiffs filed a Motion to Establish a Tribal
 15 Leadership Sub-Committee, ECF No. 782. The PSC does not object to the requested relief.

16 **I. Update on Common Benefit Special Master**

17 On July 9, 2020, Judge Jones entered CMO 8 appointing Judge Andler as the Common
 18 Benefit Special Master in the parallel state court proceedings, JCCP 5052. Leadership in the
 19 MDL and the JCCP have had several meetings with Judge Andler and are finalizing their
 20 recommendations for a vendor that can provide technical support for analyzing and generating
 21 common benefit time and expense reports. To provide Judge Andler sufficient time to become
 22 familiar with the technology and review the submissions to date, Plaintiffs anticipate that they
 23 may need an extension until at least October 15, 2020 to provide their initial report to the Court,
 24 but will keep the Court apprised of progress at the next CMC.

25 **J. Certain Defendants' Proposal for Additional Rounds of Motions to Dismiss**

26 Plaintiffs and the Retailer Defendants, Distributor Defendants, Director Defendants, and
 27 e-Liquid Defendants have been conferring and will continue to confer on issues in connection
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1 with Plaintiffs' Master and Short Form Complaints. If these parties cannot reach agreement on
 2 these issues in advance of the August CMC, they will seek further guidance from the Court.

3 **K. Preservation of Defenses by Mother Murphy's Laboratories, Inc. and**
 4 **Alternative Ingredients, Inc.**

5 With respect to Preservation of Defenses by Mother Murphy's Laboratories, Inc. and
 6 Alternative Ingredients, Inc., Plaintiffs agree as follows: Mother Murphy's Laboratories, Inc.
 7 ("MML") and Alternative Ingredients, Inc.'s ("AI") participation in case management, discovery,
 8 and any disputes that may arise, shall not in any manner impair, burden or waive their rights to
 9 assert defenses available under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 8, 9, or 12 or otherwise
 10 challenge the sufficiency of any claim in the Master Complaint or any Short Form Complaints
 11 under the applicable laws. For example and without limitation, MML's and AI's participation in
 12 discovery and discovery related issues including, but not limited to, any disputes that may arise,
 13 shall not be used as evidence or considered in any other matter filed against MML or AI as a
 14 waiver to assert defenses of any kind including, but not limited to, choice of law, jurisdiction and
 15 venue. Further, MML's and AI's participation in discovery and discovery related issues
 16 including, but not limited to, any disputes that may arise, shall not in any manner burden their the
 17 right to assert defenses of any kind including, but not limited to, those available under Federal
 18 Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b) in any unrelated matter. All such defenses are expressly reserved
 19 by MML and AI.

20 **V. 26(F) REPORT**

21 Plaintiffs and Defendants continue Rule 26 discussions. Over the past few weeks, the
 22 parties had several meet and confer sessions and offer the following report:

23 **A. Initial Disclosures**

24 Walgreens and Chevron will serve their Rule 26(a)(1)(A) disclosures by July 31, 2020.
 25 Walmart has recently retained new counsel. To avoid further delay, Plaintiffs request that the
 26 Court order Walmart serve Rule 26(a)(1)(A) disclosures no later than August 13, 2020 and that
 27 these disclosures expressly include all potentially applicable insurance policies.

1 The e-Liquid Defendants will provide applicable insurance policies by August 15, 2020
 2 and initial disclosures by August 30, 2020.

3 Defendants have requested that any Government Entity Plaintiffs, excluding Indian Tribes,
 4 with complaints on file by August 30, 2020, complete their Rule 26(a)(1)(A) disclosures by a date
 5 to be proposed to and established by the Court, but in any event no later than October 30, 2020.
 6 The Government Entity Plaintiffs believe it is premature to set a date for the disclosures until the
 7 scope of such disclosures are clarified and while the Parties are discussing whether these
 8 obligations can be satisfied in accordance with and as part of the obligations the Government
 9 Entity Plaintiffs will have to respond to Plaintiff Fact Sheets, as discussed further in Section VI
 10 below. The Government Entity Plaintiffs and Defendants will continue to confer on these issues.
 11 In the event the Parties are unable to reach agreement they will present this issue to Judge Corley.

12 Having previously agreed to defer production of initial disclosures by Plaintiffs, on July 7,
 13 2020, JLI, Altria, and the Director Defendants asked the class plaintiffs in the MDL to serve
 14 initial disclosures by August 15. The Parties are conferring on several related discovery issues,
 15 and anticipate reaching agreement on the timing of production of any initial disclosures as well.

16 **B. Changes to Default Discovery Limits**

17 Plaintiffs and Defendants continue to meet and confer regarding modifications to the
 18 ordinary limits on discovery given the scope of this litigation, for example modifying the limits
 19 on interrogatories and depositions.

20 **C. Case Schedule**

21 Plaintiffs and Defendants have been meeting and conferring regarding a proposed case
 22 schedule through bellwether trials and will be prepared to submit joint or competing proposals by
 23 the August status conference.

24 **VI. DISCOVERY STATUS**

25 Since the June 19 Case Management Conference, Plaintiffs, JLI, and Altria have
 26 continued to confer on open discovery issues, including search terms and custodians, written
 27 discovery responses, and the re-production of documents produced to regulators (discussed
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1 further below). The parties continue to make progress and will bring any unresolved issues to
 2 Judge Corley promptly.

3 **A. FTC Productions**

4 JLI has agreed to produce into the MDL Document Depository the approximately 600,000
 5 documents that it produced to the FTC to date in connection with the FTC's review of Altria's
 6 investment in JLI. JLI anticipates making this production on or before July 23, 2020, subject to an
 7 ongoing review of potentially inadvertently produced materials that may be subject to privilege
 8 issues. Subject to these hold backs, this production will include all non-privileged documents
 9 produced pursuant to the FTC's Second Request under HSR, an unredacted version of the FTC
 10 Complaint, and any privilege logs provided to the FTC in connection with these materials. To
 11 facilitate this expedited production, Plaintiffs have agreed that JLI may bulk designate this
 12 production as Highly Confidential pursuant to the Protective Order, even though much of the
 13 material may not ultimately meet that standard. JLI will conduct a prompt review and de-
 14 designate those materials on a rolling basis, and will provide Plaintiffs with an estimated time
 15 period before the July 17, 2020 Case Management Conference. Plaintiffs have agreed not to
 16 display or comment on the "Highly Confidential" tag before the Court or any Jury if the
 17 designation on a document is timely downgraded and will treat the downgraded designation as the
 18 operative designation.

19 Plaintiffs in the MDL, along with plaintiffs in the antitrust actions, are continuing to meet
 20 and confer with Altria regarding its production of the FTC and HSR documents. *See* 20-cv-
 21 02345-WHO, ECF No. 78 at 2.

22 **B. Update Regarding Third-Party Subpoenas**

23 Plaintiffs and JLI are meeting and conferring regarding Plaintiffs' third-party subpoenas to
 24 JLI's investors and financial backers. Plaintiffs and JLI will advise the Court regarding any
 25 agreements or present disputes to Judge Corley promptly. Plaintiffs have served approximately
 26 143 third-party subpoenas to date.

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1 **C. Government Entity Plaintiff and Defendant Fact Sheets**

2 The relevant Parties are meeting and conferring regarding Plaintiff and Defendant fact
 3 sheets for the Government Entities. The Parties propose a deadline of August 3, 2020, for either
 4 reaching agreement on the form and content of these fact sheets or submitting the issue to
 5 Magistrate Judge Corley for resolution. Defendants expect that the same or substantially same
 6 form of Plaintiff Fact Sheet to be utilized by the Government Entity Plaintiffs will also be
 7 appropriate for use by the Tribal Plaintiffs. Once Tribal representation on the PSC is established,
 8 Defendants will begin discussions with Plaintiffs on this topic, as well as the appropriate deadline
 9 for completing such Fact Sheets.

10 **D. Class Representative Discovery**

11 JLI has served written discovery on each of the individuals identified as a class
 12 representative. Plaintiffs have requested to meet and confer regarding this discovery.

13 **E. Supplemental Personal Injury Plaintiff Fact Sheets**

14 Plaintiffs and the Retailer, Distributer, and E-Liquid, and Director Defendants have been
 15 meeting and conferring regarding a Supplemental Plaintiff Fact Sheet and propose a deadline of
 16 July 20, 2020 for either reaching agreement on the form and content of these facts sheets or
 17 submitting the issue to Magistrate Judge Corley for resolution. Plaintiffs and these Defendants
 18 will also meet and confer regarding any necessary amendments to CMO 8 in connection with the
 19 Supplemental Plaintiff Fact Sheet and will submit either an agreed-upon or competing proposals
 20 within five business days of any telephonic or video conference before Judge Corley which is
 21 anticipated to be prior to the August CMC.

22 **VII. ADR STATUS**

23 Pursuant to Civil Local Rule 16-10(d), the Parties report that the Court appointed
 24 Settlement Master Thomas J. Perrelli. ECF No. 564.

1 Dated: July 15, 2020

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